

of all ages be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING HARRY WAMPLER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize one of the most admired public servants in my District on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Harry Wampler has served my State with distinction for many decades, and he has one of the most well-known last names in my District.

His family founded Wampler's Sausage in 1937 with just \$38 worth of supplies, and today, most folks in East Tennessee could probably sing the Wampler's Sausage jingle—"made on the farm in Tennessee."

Wampler's Sausage is an iconic Tennessee company that Harry helped lead. During his successful business career, he has also served as President and CEO of Family Brands International and as a member of the Board of Emeritus of Sun Trust Bank and the Board of Trustees of Baptist Hospital. He is a longtime member of the Civitan Club, serving as President twice and named Civitan "Man of the Year."

For several decades, Harry Wampler has also served the people of Lenoir City in public office, including the Lenoir City Council, the Loudon County Planning Commission, and the Tennessee State Legislature.

He has also held the post of Vice Mayor of Lenoir City, member of the Lenoir City Utilities Power Board, Chairman of the Republican Party of Loudon County, and Deacon of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, where he served as Chairman several times.

Harry's hard work, personal faith and love of East Tennessee is very well known by his constituents.

He is a very patriotic American and one of the finest public servants I have ever known.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Colleagues and other Readers of the RECORD to join me in wishing a very happy birthday to my friend Harry Wampler and celebrate his impressive service to the people of Loudon County, Tennessee.

APPLAUDING THE PEARLAND OILERS—A TEXAS FOOTBALL POWERHOUSE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland Oilers for winning the 2014 South Texas Youth Football Association championship.

Their overpowering performance highlighted the athletic ability and relentless work ethic that carried the Oilers past tough opponents all season. The lessons of previous seasons and defensive greatness have helped these terrific athletes achieve success at the highest level of youth football and will continue to serve them well in future challenges.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the Pearland Oiler sophomore football team for winning the South Texas Youth Football Association championship. We look forward to their continued success both on and off the field.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4926 and to honor the life of a truly remarkable man that we lost this year, Jim Oberstar. This legislation would designate the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway" and the "James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway" in the State of Minnesota, but more importantly, it would honor the legacy of one of our most beloved former colleagues.

Jim grew up appreciating the value of hard work and he innately understood the importance of cultivating strong relationships and tirelessly fighting for what was right.

He left the House of Representatives and the nation quite frankly, in a better place than when he found it. He was the consummate public servant and has an incredible lasting legacy.

In the 18 terms he served in Congress, he had a remarkable impact on the transportation industry in America and upon all of his colleagues. He was uniquely aware of the value of jobs, the economy, and the interconnectedness of goods and people throughout the country.

In a profession not always known for brevity of remarks, his speeches, as we can all attest, were amongst the most lengthy. However, when delivering remarks, he spoke passionately and with great intellect, never failing to effectively convey his point to a wide variety of audiences.

More importantly, he understood the value of bipartisanship in Washington and never let politics get in the way of good policy.

While we mourn the loss of our dear friend, we celebrate his life and service to this nation. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE "KELLY" KRAUSER KNOTT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful young woman, Katherine "Kelly" Krauser Knott, who passed away last week after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. We will miss Kelly dearly. She brought grace and warmth to everything she did. She was a great colleague, a great wife and mother, and a great friend to all she knew.

Kelly was one of the best parts of the fabric of life for those of us who have the privilege

of serving the people here on Capitol Hill. Every day, lawmakers and staff interact with dozens or even hundreds of people who are representing their issues or interests in Congress; but few of these people make the kind of lasting impression that Kelly made on many of us. She was a tireless advocate for her members at the Associated General Contractors of America and later at the National Retail Federation. Many of us had the pleasure of working with Kelly on tough policy issues over the years, and we appreciated her patience, her perseverance and her friendship through all.

Kelly came to Washington, DC from Connecticut with a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame in Indiana, and she earned a master's degree in political management from George Washington University. She got her start on Capitol Hill with the late Representative Mel Hancock from southwestern Missouri, and I'm sure it didn't take long for her colleagues in Mr. Hancock's office to recognize that Kelly was a team player and a quiet leader who was always eager to pitch in and help.

The staff and members of the Associated General Contractors of America were fortunate enough to work with Kelly through her marriage to Stewart and birth of her three children. She was a thoughtful, informed and aggressive member of the AGC team. She had a unique way of asserting her position without being too disagreeable. She made friends in the association, became a favorite of members who came to town and had a good way of guiding constituent comments back to the topic of concern without getting in their way. Most of all she was a friend and a person who used her warmth and charm to make others feel good.

Later on, even though her own family was still quite young, Kelly's effective leadership was again at the fore as she became a mentor mom to other young working mothers who learned to count on her as a source of wisdom on balancing work and family responsibilities. While her work was important to Kelly, family always came first. In the last hours of her fight, her thoughts were not about the business of continuing resolutions, issue briefs or committee assignments, but of simply ensuring that the right Christmas tree was brought home to her house so that her treasured children would have all that they needed for Christmas.

Kelly was a wonderful friend and colleague to so many, a trusted advocate on many issues, a loving wife, and a beautiful and enduring role model for her children. We have worried about and prayed for Kelly and her family during the course of her illness. We will continue to worry about and pray for her family as we all deal with the hole in our lives that comes from her passing. We know that her shoes will be impossible to fill; we are privileged to say that we were given the opportunity to call her a friend and colleague.

I am sure that many of my colleagues join me today in saying that our hearts go out to Kelly's husband Stewart, her three beautiful children, Carson (9), Halle (6) and Kendall (6), her loving family, and her friends, too numerous to count.